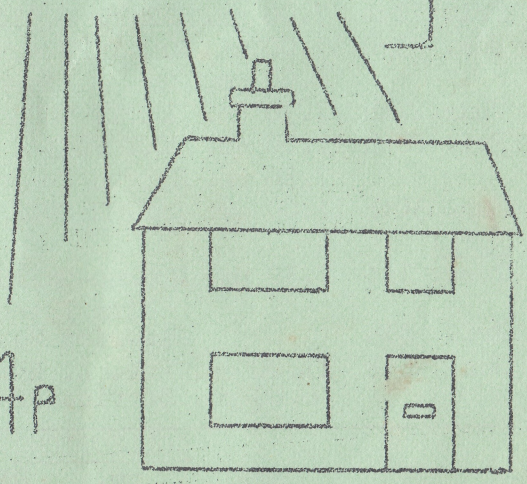
March 1975

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

# The Messenger



Price 4p

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

## ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

**March**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sun. | 2nd | 11.00 am. | Rev. A. Nash |
| | | 6.00 pm. | Service of Word & Sacrament |
| Mon. | 3rd | 5.45 pm. | Pre-Pilots) and each Monday |
| | | 6.30 pm. | Pilots ) as announced |
| Tues. | 4th | 6.15 pm. | Envoys' Rehearsal (& each Tuesday) |
| | | 7.30 pm. | Womens Guild: "Holy Land" Slides |
| Wed. | 5th | 2.00 pm. | Young Mums (& each Wednesday) |
| Thur. | 6th | 7.30 pm. | "Outreach to Industry" Mtg. at St. Stephen's |
| Fri. | 7th | 2.00 pm.) | "Women's World Day of Prayer" |
| | | 7.30 pm.) | Services at St. Stephen's |
| Sat. | 8th | | Provincial Synod |
| | | 7.30 pm. | "Outreach to Industry" Rally at Champness Hall |
| Sun. | 9th | 11.00 am. | Mrs. A. Collinge |
| | | 6.00 pm. | Mrs. E.M. Richardson |
| Mon. | 10th | 6.30 pm. | Pilots Open Evening |
| Wed. | 12th | 7.30 pm. | Elders Meeting |
| Sun. | 16th | 11.00 am. | Rev. A. Nash |
| | | 6.00 pm. | " |
| Mon. | 17th | 7.30 pm. | Womens World Day of Prayer Follow up Meeting |
| Wed. | 19th | 7.30 pm. | Church Meeting & Film |
| Fri. | 21st | 7.00 pm. | Womens Guild JUMBLE SALE |
| Sun. | 23rd | 11.00 am. | Mr. D. Jones |
| | | 6.00 pm. | Rev. A. Nash |
| Thur. | 27th | 7.30 pm. | MAUNDY THURSDAY (Communion) |
| Fri. | 28th | 11.00 am. | GOOD FRIDAY Service |
| | | 7.30 pm. | Sacred Concert for Good Friday |
| Sun. | 30th | 11.00 am. | EASTER SUNDAY -Rev. A. Nash |

**April**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tues. | 1st | 7.30 pm. | Womens Guild: Miss Paton Rogerson |
| Fri. | 4th | | District Meeting |
| Sun. | 6th | 11.00 am. | Rev. A. Nash |
| | | 6.00 pm. | Service of Word & Sacrament |

### COLLECTIONS

| | am. | pm. | Envelopes | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | £26.03 | £11.80 | £71.30 | £109.13 |

## LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

March

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sun. | 2nd | 10.30 am. | Mr. J. Lord |
| Wed. | 5th | 6.45 pm. | Pilots |
| Sun. | 9th | 10.30 am. | Rev.A. Nash -MOTHERS' DAY |
| | | 6.00 pm. | " (Fellowship after.) |
| Wed. | 12th | 6.45 pm. | Pilots |
| Sat. | 15th | 7.15 pm. | Family Social |
| Sun. | 16th | 10.30 am.) | Mrs. M. Nash - LADIES SUNDAY |
| | | 3.00 pm.) | Please note times of services |
| Tue. | 18th | 7.30 pm. | Women's Guild Annual Meeting & Birthday Supper |
| Wed. | 19th | 6.45 pm. | Pilots |
| Sun. | 23rd | 10.30 am. | Rev. A. Nash -Family Communion |
| Mon. | 24th | 7.30 pm. | Church Meeting |
| Thur. | 27th | 7.30 pm. | Men's Fellowship |
| Fri. | 28th | 11.00 am. | Good Friday Service at: Victoria St. Methodist Church |
| Sun. | 30th | 10.30 am. | Easter Day - Mr. R. Vincent |

April

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fri. | 4th | 7.30 pm. | Film - Road to Emmaus |

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## FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

| | |
|---|---|
| Mar. 2nd | Mrs. E. Jackson |
| 9th | Mrs. Walker |
| 16th | Mrs. Hill |
| 23rd | Mrs. Crossley |
| | Mrs. Williams |
| 30th | Mrs. Cockcroft |
| Apl. 6th | Mrs. Wade |

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## COLLECTIONS

| | Cash | Envelopes |
|---|---|---|
| Jan. 5th | 1.87½ | 11.12½ |
| 12th | 4.20½ | 13.02 |
| 19th | 1.64½ | 12.51½ |
| 26th | 1.79½ | 12.90½ |

From the Manse.

March 1975

My dear friends,

Easter comes early this year. Too early perhaps to expect much in the way of good weather. Last year, on Easter Monday, you will recall that some twenty-five of our folk went on a ramble to Hollingworth Lake. In the morning there was heavy rain and we all had doubts as to whether the ramble would be held. Then the sun came out, just in time and we enjoyed sunshine all the way, until as we neared home the clouds built up dark and forbidding again.

Life is like this too. It contains both dark and light, sunshine and shadow, evil and good. We may know at this very time of someone who is going through a dark patch, just as we may know of those who are enjoying a great happiness.

Jesus was under the shadow on the first Good Friday. The light and the dark, sunshine and the shade, the evil and the good all met around Him and in the battle it seemed that the darker side had won. The sky clouded over even at the midday, and "darkness covered the earth". You know, however, as I know, that this was not the end. God would not allow it to end like this and so the darkness of Good Friday is swallowed up in the glory of Easter Day.

The great shadows which fall upon the lives of men are sin and evil and death. In Jesus, God has taken away their power to hurt and to destroy. That they no longer have power has been demonstrated time and time again in the lives of those who take God at His word.

It is true you know, that there is a bright side as well as a dark side to life and it does depend, to a very great extent, upon ourselves as to which of these sides we are going to live with.

May God bless you all at this Eastertide.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month:

"In Him (Christ) was life; and the life was the light of men"

John 1: verse 4.

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IN MEMORIAM

Mr. JOHN LESLIE WHITTAKER, of 27 Harbour Lane, Milnrow, aged 48 years, died 30th January.

Leslie's courage during his long illness was an inspiration to us all. Fellow workers from Holroyds and many friends were present to pay tribute to him at the Service held at Rochdale Crematorium.

May we express our deepest sympathy to Gwen, Ann and the family in their great loss.

A letter of thanks to the members and friends at St. Stephen's for their prayers and support over the last seven years, for their sympathy and for the donation to Cancer Relief has been received.

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Mrs. ELEANOR BROWN, of 34 Cornfield Street, Milnrow, aged 87 years, died 12th February.

May we extend our condolences to relatives and friends.

Both services were conducted by our minister.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Jane Knight of Hare Hill Court who will be 90 years old on March 10th.

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## ELCOME INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP!

HAYDEN and MARGARET OGDEN
on profession of faith
and
ALWYN and BRENDA SHARPLES
on transfer from Mytholmroyd Methodist Church

were received into church membership at St. Stephen's on Sunday, 2nd February.

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## ON THE BRIDGE

Recently three new Officers have come along to help with the Pilot Company - they are: Mrs. J. Munday, Mrs. M. Nash and Mrs. M. Ogden. We welcome them, also the new Pilot members: Mark Baines, Stephen Grayson, Christopher Hey, Jonathan Reed, Jennifer Brennan, Joanne Porter, Susan Munday, Suzanne Burke, Deborah Smith, Paula Bamford, Gillian Walton, Brent Worrall and Helen Clarence who are now in the full Pilot Company.

We were unable to hold our Open Evening last month. This will be on Monday, March 10th and a cordial invitation is given to all and sundry to join us from 6.30 - 8.0 pm. on that day.

It is good to have our Captain, Mr, Jack Collins back with us, also Mr. Harry Mellor after his short spell away through illness.

## PLENTY OF BRASS

We are greatly indebted to Mr, Siswick and the Brass Band Section of the Rochdale Youth Orchestra for the excellent concert given on our behalf recently. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the entire programme and it was good to see so many young people with such a real interest in music. Our thanks to all and every good wish for future success.
(Incidentally this effort raised the sum of £25 for Church Funds. Thanks to all supporters.

YOUNG MUMS

The members of the 'Young Mums' would like to thank all who contributed in any way in helping to raise the magnificent sum of £19.00 at their recent Coffee Evening. We were working under rather difficult circumstances, but had a thoroughly enjoyable evening - much people - much cash -much happiness. Thank you! This money has been handed in for Church Funds.

Programmes for March are as follows:-

5th: Opened by Mrs. C. Hey
A Games afternoon

12th: Opened by The Members
'Thinking about our older friends'.

19th: Opened by Mrs. M. Holden
Why a Day of Prayer????

26th: No Meeting.

A welcome awaits any young Mum who cares to join us on Wednesday afternoons from 2.0 p.m.

KITCHEN PRAYER

God bless my little kitchen, I love its every nook,
And bless me, as I do my work; wash pots and pans and cook.
And may the meals that I prepare be seasoned from above,
With Thy great blessing and Thy grace, but most of all Thy LOVE.
So bless my little kitchen, God, and those who enter in.
May they find naught but joy, and peace, and happiness within.

DON'T FORGET! - WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Mar.7
United Services in St. Stephen's: 2 pm. & 7.30 pm.
(A creche for young children will be provided 2 pm)
Come yourself and bring others.
Light refreshments will be served in the schoolroom after each service.
Our Speaker in the evening will be Mrs. Henderson, and ladies from all local churches will be taking part.

## ROCKETRY AT ST. STEPHEN'S

The St. Stephen's space rocket project will be launched at any moment now. It's purpose will be to keep before us the progress made in raising funds for the heating conversion.

One suggestion put forward by the Efforts Committee is that a penny a day be saved, starting from March 1st, and that the first instalment of "Savings" be brought into Church and presented as a special offering on June 8th - Family Church Anniversary. It is hoped that you will be pleased to join this scheme.

Other systems of raising the rocket will also be welcomed.

Lift off will be as soon as we raise £50.

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## OUTREACH TO INDUSTRY

As you will know the 'Outreach to Industry' in the Rochdale area has been underway for some weeks and meetings have been held at various churches locally. It will be the turn of St. Stephen's to be hosts on Thursday, March 6th at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Martin Higginbottom was to have come along to speak to us, but although he is now unfortunately unable to be here in person, we shall be hearing his voice on tape. Everyone interested is invited to come along and we hope for a good attendance. Mr. Higginbottom is a Lancashire man who has already done tremendous work for Christ in industrial situations up and down the country. He is a compelling speaker and you will be glad you came.

Refreshments will be provided during the evening. Bring a friend!

Floating
Through the dark,
Black narrow streets.
The cobbles
Shine a silvery grey,
The moon copies silently,
The clock
Chimes a dull, dirty twelve.
Houses Seem tumble down
In the dark black night.
A nook in a curtain
Let's have a look
In the room
A box full of toys,
And a boy,
His face a dull grey.
The shadows of the lamp
Makes him pull
The sheets around him.
His name is George.
The rush of the waves
Spoils
The sandy beach,
And
The silence
Of Sea Village.

K. Alistair Hey

(age 9 years)

JUMBLE SALE at St. Stpephen's
Friday - 21st March
at 7.00 pm.

Start your Spring Cleaning NOW and let us have your unwanted goods, or contact any member of the Women's Guild.

## AN ETERNAL PRAYER

Lord, you have made a mistake in your calculations
There is a big mistake somewhere
The hours are too short,
The days are too short,
Our lives are too short.

You who are beyond time, Lord, you smile to see
us fighting it.
And you know what you are doing.
You made no mistakes in your distribution of time
to men.
You gave each one time to do what you want him
to do.

But we must not lose time,
waste time,
kill time,
For time is a gift that you gave us.
But a perishable gift; a gift that does not keep.

Lord, I have time, I have plenty of time.
All the time you give me - the years of my life,
The days of my years, the hours of my days,
They are all mine.
Mine to fill quietly, calmly,
But to fill completely up to the brim.
To offer them to you.

I am not asking you, Lord, for time to do this
and then that,
But your grace to do conscientiously, in the
time you give me,
What you want me to do.

by Michael Quoist

(Submitted by Mrs. Ilma Collins after a small incident had made her realise that another week had passed.)

THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRADICTION THER IS

"In the person of Christ Jesus, the divine society and the mundane society have a common member who in the order of This World is born into the ranks of the Proletariat and dies the death of a malefactor, while in the order of the Other World He is the King of God's Kingdom".

## SPRING COMES

Robins are singing and green grass is springing,
How fair my garden grows,
With tulips so stately, who, till quite lately,
Slept Soundly 'neath winter's cold snows;

Now the warm sun is bright and its pure golden light
Makes rainbows in each drop of dew,
A delight to behold are the daffodils gold
frilly hoods, with the sun shining through.

All the sweet buds are waking, the flowerets are taking
New life from the life-giving sun;
They're all free at last, dark winter is past
And now there's a race to be run.

Oh, my garden is gay on this fair spring day -
My own heart sings with the rest,
For this is the time when the Easter bells chime,
CHRIST IS RISEN! Awake and be blest!

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## LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

LADIES SING - Sunday March 16th at 10.30 am.& 3. pm.

Both Services will be conducted by our President, Mrs. Maud Nash - the ladies will give items of special singing at both services - our organist will be Mr. Arthur Clegg. We look forward to a full Church on both occasions, so do your best. This Service is for just everybody. See you there!

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The United Service for the WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - on Friday March 7th will be held in St. Barnabas Church, Shore at 7.45 p.m. Our minister will give the address. The theme of the Service which has been prepared this year by women in the Churches of the Arab Republic of Egypt, is "Become perfectly one". This is an international, interdenominational service when ladies from everywhere and anywhere are invited to come together. Look out for someone who has never been to such a service and take them along with you.

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LADIES GUILD

Some twenty pairs of needles clicked merrily whilst some sixteen pairs of eyes watched as the inches grew steadily at the Ladies Guild 'Knit-In' held on February 19th. Within an hour much had been achieved and much money had been promised by a number of well-wishing "sponsors." The result of this will appear in next month's "Messenger."

Our Secretary, Mrs. Amy Stott, was greatly missed. We wish her a speedy recovery - also any other member who has been unwell of late.

Thank you to the knitters, especially the Pilots who helped, and the younger 'Guilders' - also the 'brewers-up' 'washers-up' and 'takers-round'of the welcome cups of tea, etc.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 18th will be the Annual General Meeting followed by Birthday Supper.

## TAKE A CARE

By the time you read this and barring miracles, we shall be without a caretaker at Littleborough. An urgent cry is going out for volunteers to help on a rota basis and surprisingly few people have put their names forward so far. Please offer your services to mop, sweep, vac and dust in the House of God; this is the sort of Christian duty that even the least self-confident can undertake.

How about it?

## CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS & CO

We would like to wish the best of British luck (if such a commodity still exists) to Mrs. Hilary Vincent as she and her band of 4 Pilots make their intrepid steps to the heart of Barnston Dale for the Annual Camp and Captain Capitulation on March 22nd. We look forward to seeing the invincible Mrs. Vincent crawl back on March 27th.

GOOD FRIDAY.....is a good day to join with fellow Christians in a joint act of worship at.....

VICTORIA STREET METHODISTS at 11. am.

CALLING ALL FAMILIES - to the

**FAMILY** SOCIAL - on SATURDAY, 15th MARCH

which is not to be missed by you or anyone else!

So think on!

## THINKING OF SPRING CLEANING?

If you get beyond the thinking stage don't forget that we need Jumble for Junior Church and CWM on Friday 18th April.

## CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

### DOOR STEWARDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2nd | Mr. H.N. Hill | Mr. F. Beattie | |
| 9th | Mr. E. Holt | Mr. J. Nairn | 10.30 |
| | Mrs. Crossley | Mr. J. Hill | |
| | LADIES SUNDAY | | |
| 16th | Mrs. Clayton | Mrs. M. Hill | 10.30 |
| | Mrs. Spinks | Mrs. Moss (Collectors) | |
| | Mrs. Cryer | Mrs. Crossley | 3.0 pm |
| | Mrs. K. Hill | Mrs. Mills(Collectors) | |
| 23rd | Mr. J. Lord | Mr. F. Beattie | |
| 30th | Mr. H.N. Hill | Mr. J. Hill | |
| Apl. 6th | Mrs. E. Crossley | Mr. E. Holt | |

### ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. 9th | Mr. J. Lord | Mr. Nairn | 6.0 pm. |
| 23rd | Mr. F. Beattie | Mr. Simpson | 10.30 |

### ORGANIST/PIANIST

| | am. | pm. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2nd | Mrs. M. Hill | | |
| 9th | Miss L. Merrick | Mrs. M. Hill | |
| 16th | Mr. A. Clegg | Mr. A. Clegg | (3.0 pm.) |
| 23rd | Miss L. Merrick | | |
| 30th | Mrs. M. Hill | | |

### FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2nd | W. Law | J. Law |
| 9th | D. Mallinson | J. Hobbs |
| 16th | Yvonne Kenny | K. Hill |
| | Susan Butterworth | |
| 23rd | Beverley Merrick | Bev. Allison |
| | J. Allison | |
| 30th | L. Butterworth | W. Spinks |
| Apl. 6th | L. Kelsall | S. Moss |

### FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2nd. | Isaiah 35: 1-10 | H. Vincent |
| 9th | Mark 1: 14-20 | K. Hill |
| 16th | Mark 6: 45-52 | P. Lightfoot |
| 23rd | Mark 11: 1-11 | M. Law |
| 30th | Romans 4: 23-25 | |
| | " 5: 1-11 | M. Grindrod |
| Apl. 6th | | M. G. Hill |

## CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

### FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2nd | Mr. D. Fursey | Mrs. J. Duffy |
| 9th | Mr. J. Harrison | Counc. I. Royle |
| 16th | Mr. J. Collins | Mrs. A. Collins |
| 23rd | Mrs. F. Rae | Mrs. P. Royle |
| 27th | Mr. R. Gillon | Mr. J. Wild (Thursday) |
| 28th | Mr. K. Hey | Mr. J. Emmott (Firday) |
| 30th | Mr. G. Buckley | Mr. A. Rae (E. Sunday) |
| Apl. 6th | Mr. H. Mellor | Mrs. F. Butterworth |

| ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS | | DUTY ELDER | ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2 | Mr. R. Gillon | Mrs.E.Gillon | Mr. D. Logan |
| 9 | Mr. J. Wild | Mrs.N.Settle | Mrs. C. Hey |
| 16 | Mr. K. Hey | Mr.A.Roberts | Mrs. E.Starkie |
| 23 | Mrs.M.Howarth | Mr.B.Clough | Mr. J. Emmott |
| 30 | NO EVENING SERVICE | | |

### COMMUNION ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2 | Mr. A. Roberts | Mr. J. Emmott |
| 27 | Mr. B. Clough | Mr. A. Roberts |
| 30 | Mr. R. Gillon | Miss M. Wood am. |
| Apl. 6 | Mr. K. Hey | Mrs. M. Howarth |

### FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2 | Mrs. H. Buckley | Mrs. E. Smith |
| 9 | Miss M. Wood | Miss A. Clegg |
| 16 | Mrs. J. Duffy | Mrs. F. Butterworth |
| 23 | Mrs. A. Wood | Mrs. A. Collins |
| 30 | NO COFFEE BAR | |
| Apl. 6 | Mrs. H. Whitehead | Mrs. Greenhalgh |

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

### FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 2 | Mrs. H. Buckley | Mrs. E. Smith |
| 9 | Miss M. Wood | |
| 16 | Mrs. A. Tither | Mrs. J. Harriosn |
| 23 | Miss I. Tither | Mrs. A. Baines |
| 30 | Mrs. E. King | |

MINISTER:

Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES:

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Mr. F.C. Simpson,
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Littleborough.
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(Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Mr. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

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HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW:

Miss H. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle